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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

October 13, 2009

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The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As Congress and your Administration discuss new economic stimulus measures, I am writing to you to urge you to support bipartisan, pro-growth legislation to create jobs and help turn our economy around, in Western New York and across America.

Our economy is still hurting, and urgent measures are necessary to set it on the right track and create jobs. Unemployment is at its highest level in 26 years, nearing 10 percent nationally. Small businesses – the backbone of our economy – are struggling under the weight of tight credit, declining consumer spending and rising health care costs. Manufacturing continues to endure a difficult time. The housing market remains sluggish and home values – the principal asset for most American families – have not recovered. It is clear that the Recovery Act has not had the positive impact on jobs that was intended: since its passage nearly 3 million jobs have been lost, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Western New Yorkers do not believe that higher taxes and spending will generate the job creation necessary to a successful recovery. The American people expect us to work toward real, common sense solutions that will fix what is broken, stimulate the economy in the short-term and set us on a path for long-term growth. I know we have a shared desire and goal to help create the good-paying jobs for the hard-working families we are honored to represent.

To this end, I have worked closely with my Democratic and Republican colleagues to introduce bipartisan, pro-growth legislation meant to spur real job gains, and I urge you to support passage of these measures in the House of Representatives:

- H.R. 1545 – Introduced with Rep. John Boccieri (D-OH), this bill makes the expiring research and development tax credit permanent and offer a bonus tax credit to companies who also manufacture their products in the United States. While there are other proposals to make the R&D credit permanent, I believe this proposal will help strengthen American manufacturing and good jobs here at home.

- H.R. 1552 – Introduced with Rep. Frank Kratovil (D-MD), this bill quadruples the tax deduction for new small business starts from \$5,000 to \$20,000. America's economy is built on the risk-takers and entrepreneurs, and it is important to provide greater incentives for new small businesses and the jobs they create.
- H.R. 2378 – Introduced with Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH), the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act authorizes the International Trade Commission to take action to stop illegal Chinese currency manipulation. By artificially undervaluing its currency, the yuan, by as much as 40 percent, China gives its manufacturers unfair price advantages. Such practices violate international trade agreements, and this legislation uses existing authorities to level the playing field to ensure free and fair trade for American manufacturers and workers.
- H.R. 1245 – With the support of 48 Democratic and Republican cosponsors, this bill replaces the current, expiring tax credit for first-time homebuyers with a one-time credit for 10 percent of the purchase price of a principal residence, up to \$15,000. This bill will help struggling American families buy a home and strengthen the housing market.

The aforementioned legislation represent important, pro-growth, bipartisan solutions that will generate significant support. These proposals do not make the mistake of thinking we can spend our way to prosperity or economic recovery, but instead they provide American manufacturers, small businesses, homebuyers and workers tools they need to help create jobs and generate a real, sustained recovery.

I look forward to working with you and my colleagues in Congress to enact these meaningful reforms. Thank you in advance for your kind consideration to these bipartisan bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher J. Lee", written in a cursive style.

CHRISTOPHER J. LEE
Member of Congress